

historically been done. But in addition they requested that we would increase the tax collections on insurance premiums. In turn, those additional funds generated from that tax be used to expand the Fire Marshal's capabilities particularly in the area of arson but also in general prevention of fire in those programs carried on by the department. What the committee amendment does it reflects the increase in the tax rate that originally was established by law with an increase on both foreign and domestic fire insurance companies. Currently under the existing rate this year we collected about \$308,000 in '78. It is anticipated that around \$338,000 - \$340,000 this year but with the increase in tax it is estimated that next years collection, and it is only collected one time a year March 1st, next years tax should be in the vicinity of \$507,000 to \$557,000. The appropriation for the Fire Marshal's office is in the appropriation bill this year. It is written in such fashion that we are continue the funding the operation from General Fund money and the premium tax goes into the General Fund last March has historically been the case. Well then beginning July 1, 1980, and the collections of the increased tax and the existing tax that will be deposited in March of 1980, that portion of the Fire Marshal's office that is appropriately funded for fire prevention and arson work will be funded directly out of this fund still subject to the same appropriation process that we have always had. In addition we have placed language in the general appropriation bill specifically spelling out the dollar maximum that will be requested in the general fund next year and that general fund goes for the support of other activities within the Fire Marshal's office such as their handicapped, inspection of facilities for the handicapped and a couple of other smaller areas for which general fund money is used but it is unrelated to fire prevention or for fire arson investigations. The committee amendment that designates these funds placed in a separate cash fund are to be used subject of course to the appropriations by the legislature for fire investigation, detection, suppression of arson and other fire prevention activities. I'd move adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President. Mr. President, one other thing that I should add one of the issues that came up in the committee with concern if there was any possible....by virtue of the fact that we were increasing slightly the tax, the premium tax, from foreign insurance companies that there was any possibility of a retaliatory tax being charged back against Nebraska companies doing business in those other states. That was thoroughly investigated and there was no possibility at the rate here would be out of compliance with other states and it would have no adverse impact as far as a retaliatory tax being applied to the Nebraska companies doing business in other states.